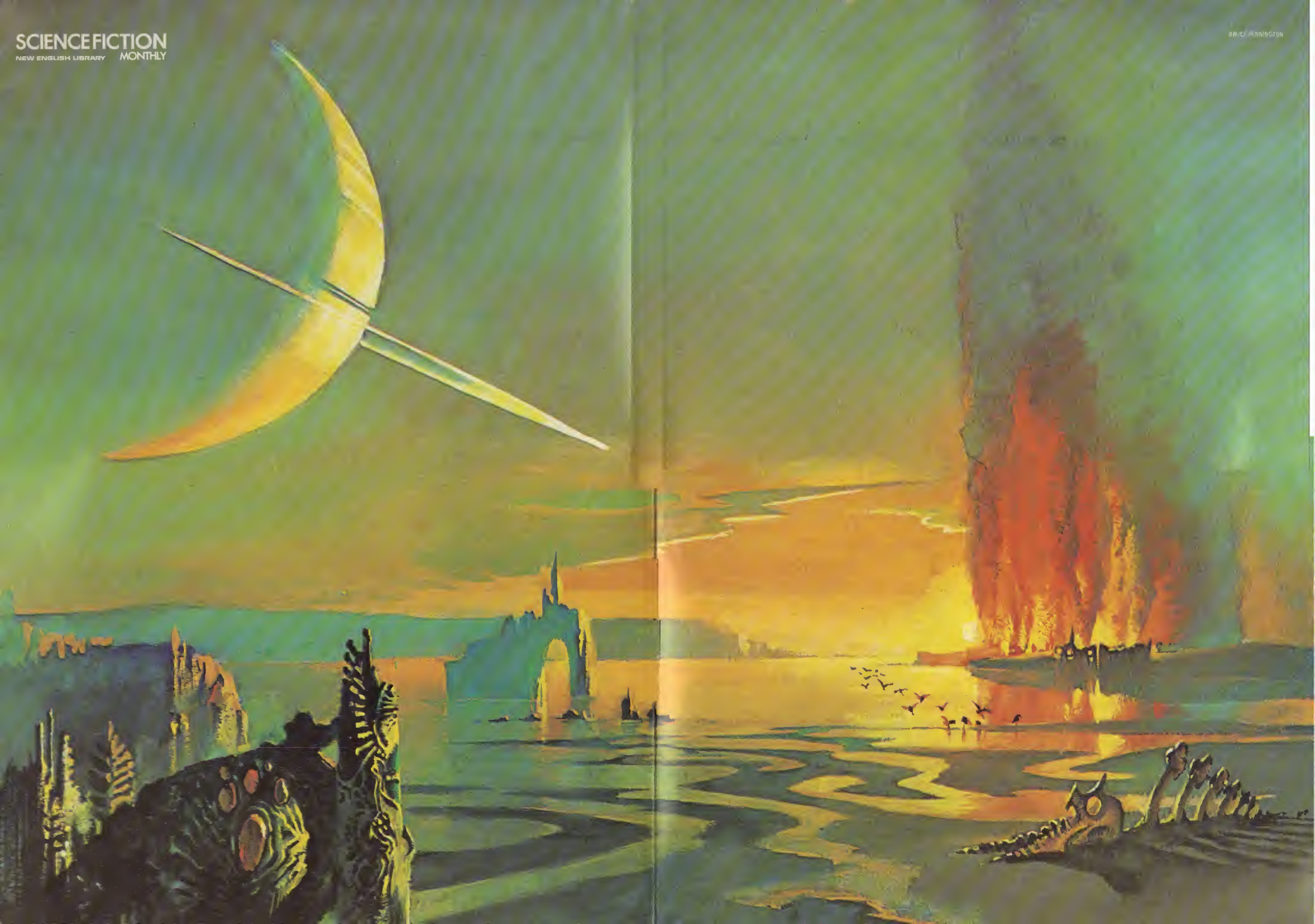




PART 7 THE SIZE OF THINGS TO COME

EVENTS BEYOND THEIR COMPREHENSION APPEAR TO HAVE DRAWN RICK, NOVA AND DIXIE TO A FINAL RECKONING IN THE FORM OF A GROTESQUE LITTLE GREMLIN WHO CALLS HIMSELF INCUBUS. YET THE PURPOSE OF THIS DEFORMED LITTLE CREATURE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED.

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY MALCOLM POYNTER

BROUGHT US HERE!!

WELCOME. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. NO DOUBT YOU'RE WONDERING WHO I AM AND WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE.

OH YES. BROUGHT YOU HERE. NONE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU HAS BEEN AN ACCIDENT.

BUT WHY???

WHY? BECAUSE I HAVE NEED OF YOU. DON'T WORRY. ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED IN DUE COURSE.

AS I SAID, I AM INCUBUS. I AM A VISITOR. I VISIT DREAMS AND ILLUSIONS. I AM EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE. EVERYTHING THAT YOU SEE HERE, I CREATED FOR YOUR BENEFIT!

BUT WHO ARE YOU... WHAT ARE YOU??

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YES!

THESE FIGURES ARE FAMILIAR TO YOU?

I THOUGHT THESE THINGS WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL MORE AT HOME. I FOUND THEM IN YOUR HEADS!

THEN THAT IS WHY THEY EXIST HERE. I CAN CREATE ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER THOUGHT OF BECAUSE I CREATED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

HA HA HAA... WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE WHERE YOU REALLY ARE? YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT! PERHAPS A GLIMPSE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND.

YOU SEE, YOU'RE IN A PLACE THAT DOESN'T REALLY EXIST. WHAT YOU HAVE JUST SEEN IS ONLY ONE PLACE. THERE ARE MANY OTHERS, PEOPLED WITH BEINGS NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE, BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF A HUMAN MIND. IF YOU CAN THINK OF IT, THEN I CAN REPRODUCE IT....!!

IT'S... JUST... A TRICK!

A TRICK? YES! A TRICK! AN ILLUSION. I CREATE ILLUSIONS. BUT THEN, WHERE DOES ILLUSION START AND REALITY STOP?

YOUR REALITY THAT IS! I HAVE NONE. TO ME NOTHING IS REAL! BUT YOU STILL LOOK PUZZLED. SUPPOSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND. PERHAPS A DEMONSTRATION IS NEEDED TO CONVINCE YOU OF WHAT I AM, AND WHAT I CAN DO. REMEMBER I AM INCUBUS!

ANY DARK THOUGHTS OR IMAGININGS THAT YOU HAVE HAD WERE THERE BECAUSE I PUT THEM THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

DARK THOUGHTS?

HA... HA... HA! YES. DARK! SURELY YOU DON'T THINK ME CAPABLE OF DIVINE THOUGHTS??! TAKE A LOOK AND TELL ME IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN HERE BEFORE?

...OR HERE?

...OR HERE?

OH THIS IS SO TIRESOME. I GET TIRED OF PLAYING THESE GAMES. THAT'S ALL I EVER SEEM TO DO... PLAY TIRESOME GAMES. I'M BORED! TIME FOR MORE SERIOUS MATTERS. EITHER YOU BELIEVE ME OR YOU WANT MORE PROOF!

NO! I BELIEVE YOU. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?

LATER I THINK... YOU LOOK TIRED. FIRST SOME FOOD AND DRINK, THEN SLEEP AND SOME NEW ATTIRE AND THEN YOU WILL BE READY...

...FOR WHAT?

BOOF!

NICK, HE'S A MANIAC... HOMICIDAL! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING??

ESCAPE DIXIE!! SOMEHOW THERE MUST BE A WAY!

BUT YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID... YOU SAW...

DIXIE, WE'RE NOT HANGING AROUND TO PROVIDE FUN AND GAMES FOR THAT COSMIC DIXIE!

HANGING AROUND... A MOST APT PHRASE MY DEAR NOVA! A LITTLE REMINDER TO HELP YOU TO REMEMBER WHO'S IN CONTROL!

NEXT SECOND

IS THIS CLIFF HANGER THE END OF RICK AND DIXIE? HANG AROUND TILL NEXT MONTH AND FIND OUT!





